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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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Overt and Covert Status of MVD Personnel NO. OF PAGES 2

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The MVD used three terms to designate the overt or covert status of an MVD officer or agent. The two officially recognized designations were "overt" (glasnyy) and "covert" (neglasnyy). The third designation, semi-overt or semi-covert (poluglasnyy), was used in the rare instances when a covert agent (neglasnyy sotrudnik) was working in an overt position.
2. Covert status. A covert agent was one who had no official position in the MVD organization. Such an agent held an "appointment", giving him an assimilated rank or position for pay purposes (zarplata). In the majority of cases, a covert agent was registered at his place of residence and had backstopped documents which concealed his affiliation with intelligence (razvedka).

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Normally a covert agent met his case officers in safehouses. When his case officers were especially busy or when it was necessary for the agent to see documents that could not be removed from the MVD building, meetings would be held in the MVD building. In such instances the agent would be instructed to proceed to a designated room, and was compartmented from other activities in the building. If the covert agent was a Party member, he did not attend the general Party meetings of his service but participated in meetings of a small Party group (partgrupa). On other Party matters, a representative of the Party organization, most frequently the secretary, would work

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separately with the agent. MVD instructions or orders that concerned the covert agent were never placed on the general bulletin board. If for some reason further employment of an individual as a covert agent became impossible, he could be transferred to the overt status and continue his employment with the MVD.

3. Overt status. Officers and clerical personnel of the MVD were known as such and they were registered with their housing administrations as workers (sotrudniki) of the MGB or MVD. Occasionally, if operating conditions permitted, a covert agent could be recruited from among the overt personnel.
4. Semi-overt or semi-covert status. When a covert agent was temporarily without assignment, or when there was a specific reason for it, he might be put in the semi-overt status. In this case his services would be utilized in an overt position.

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